



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An Electronic Newsletter in Support of Statewide Interoperable Communications in Montana
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Public Safety Communications Highlights

- HAM readers are asked to keep Dale Osborne, MHP Lead Radio Technician, and his family in their thoughts and prayers as they deal with the passing of their 27-year-old daughter, Sarah.
- Statewide System Update: On July 25, Motorola crews completed a trunking installation at the Highwood Baldy site. Charlie Gilmore, Lewis and Clark County, added the site to the Master Zone controller, and the site is now up and running in wide-area trunking.
- DES Staffers Marschal Rothe and Mike Stapp took the State Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) to the Glacier Hamfest and successfully demonstrated its capabilities to about 150 persons who toured it. Efforts to recruit volunteers also were fruitful, with several individuals requesting information about how to assist with emergency communications to support local, state and tribal agencies during incidents or disasters.

Statewide Interoperability Governing Board (SIGB) Meeting Report

Montana Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) Status Update: At the Tues., July 10 meeting of the Statewide Interoperability Governing Board (SIGB) in Helena, Warren Dupuis, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), reported that contracts are now in place to complete trunking installations at the Butte 9-1-1, Greycliff and Highwood Baldy sites and to install the eastern zone controller in Richland County. Broadband and strategic planning activities are in the works. He also reviewed SIGB accomplishments over the past seven months. His presentation slides are available at this [link](#).

Public Safety Broadband Forum: Public Safety Services Bureau Chief Quinn Ness gave a [presentation](#) on a Forum hosted by the National Governor's Association (NGA). NGA stressed the need for states to start preparing for planning and deployment of the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN).

SIGB Technical Working Group News: The vast majority of spare parts being acquired with PSIC Strategic Technology Reserve grant funds have been purchased. Technical equipment purchasing standards also have been established. Roger Smith, Lewis and Clark County, is still checking site functionality and collecting inventory data. Work on the four sites that experienced winter damage continues as well as activities to support the Eastern Zone Controller coming on line. In addition, Roger is assisting Fallon County with tasks needed for bid requests to be able to be released on six new sites in Eastern Montana.

SIGB Legislative Working Group News: Jeff Brandt, SITSD, reported on behalf of Commissioner Mike McGinley, indicating that work continues on the draft legislation to codify the role, responsibility, and authority of the SIGB and to identify potential state funding sources for the operation, maintenance and build-out of the statewide public safety communications system.

Next SIGB Meeting: It is set for Tues., Aug. 7 in Room 152 of the State Capitol beginning at 10:00 am.

Narrowbanding Resources

Here is a list of websites and resources with additional information and insights to help you plan your transition from wideband (25 kHz) to the more efficient 12.5 kHz narrowband channels in the 150-174 MHz and 421-512 MHz bands (VHF and UHF). The transition needs to be completed by Jan. 1, 2013.

- [FCC Narrowbanding Website:](#) This site provides recent articles about narrowbanding, links to helpful resources, a countdown clock and FCC contact information.
- [National Public Safety Telecommunications Council \(NPSTC\) Narrowbanding Website:](#) This site includes a comprehensive list of narrowbanding resources, including technical briefs, articles and fact sheets about the narrowbanding process and the cost of narrowbanding.
- [PSSB Narrowbanding Webpage:](#) This site explains the principles of narrowbanding, summarizes FCC Regulations, and provides links to other resources:
- [Wireless Radio Narrowbanding Website:](#) Provides information for FCC Part 90 Private Land

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Mobile Radio (LMR) licensees, dispatch system managers, consultants, integrators, sales and service facilities and end-users facing the narrowbanding deadline. This site provides information for FCC Part 90 Private Land Mobile Radio licensees, dispatch system managers, consultants, integrators, sales and service facilities, and end users facing the narrowbanding deadline.

- [Vermont Communications Narrowbanding Instructions](#) (PDF): Provides step-by-step instructions on how to modify FCC licenses for narrowband.
- [A Practical Guide to Narrowbanding](#) (PDF): This best-practice guide from the Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) helps emergency responders comply with the FCC narrowbanding mandate by providing a step-by-step approach for narrowbanding communications equipment and licenses. Five case studies illustrate common narrowbanding challenges and their solutions.

NECP Performance Evaluation Reports Still Needed

Montana recently achieved a milestone by having 100% of its counties submit the federally-required communications capabilities report. Montana is required to submit both this report and a Performance Evaluation to the Dept. of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) to report state progress towards meeting the National Emergency Communications Plan Goal #2. (For more information, please visit: <http://pssb.mt.gov/pscommunications.mcp>).

A big thank you goes out to all the counties for helping us reach this important milestone. We now have one more hurdle, though, which is to achieve at least 75% completion of the Performance Evaluations. Montana now stands at 68%, up from 61% two weeks ago.

A copy of the county Performance Evaluation form is available at this [link](#). Once completed, they should be e-mailed to E. Wing Spooner, espooner@mt.gov. Questions? Call her at 406-444-2491.

A special note of appreciation goes out to the counties and individuals listed in the table located

below who all submitted their Performance Evaluations within the last two weeks.

NECP PERFORMANCE REPORTS			
Compliance Rate <u>Last</u> Reporting Period: 61%		Compliance Rate <u>Current</u> Reporting Period: 68%	
County	Person Reporting	County	Person Reporting
Butte-Silver Bow	Dave McPherson, 9-1-1 Manager	Glacier County	John Thompson, Sheriff's Office
Dawson County	Mary Jo Gehmert, DES Coordinator	Ravalli County	Erik Hoover, OEM Deputy Coordinator

Congratulations!

Upcoming Meetings & Training Sessions

- **Thurs., Aug. 2: Northern Tier Consortium**
Conference Call • 10:00 am - 11:30 pm
Contact Sheriff Don Brostrom, brostrom@hillso.org, for conference call details
- **Tues., Aug. 7: Statewide Interoperability Governing Board (SIGB)**
Helena • 10:00 am - noon
State Capitol, Room 152
http://itsd.mt.gov/policy/councils/sigb/08072012_meeting.mcp
- **Thurs., Aug. 16: SIGB Technical Team Mtg.**
Helena • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
State DES Conference Room
Fort Harrison, 1956 Mount Majors Street
- **Tues., Aug. 21: State Agency Radio Users Task Force Meeting**
Helena • 1:30 - 3:00 pm
Mitchell Bldg., 125 N. Roberts, Rm. 218
- **Sat.-Sun., Aug. 25-26: DHS OEC AUXCOMM Course**
Billings • 8:00 am - 6:00 pm each day
MSU College of Technology (COT), 1500 University Dr.
Pre-reqs: IS-700, IS-800, ICS-100, ICS-200, General Class or higher Ham license
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